

DISCLOSURE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **ANSWER**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**
☐ **UNTIMELY**

DATE: 7/16/2021

DOCKET #: 2021-687

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Mardy Tyson Summerlin
Address: 214 Peninsula Drive, Natchitoches, LA 71457
Office/Position: Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
of Disclosures/Amendments Filed with Agency: 3
Years Covered: 2018-2020
Final Report: No

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2018 - Amendment
Report ID: PFD19005920
Original Due Date: 5/15/2019
Initial PFD Filed on: 5/15/2019
NOD-amend Received: 10/31/2020
NOD-amend Signed by: Unable to Determine
Amendment/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 11/10/2020
Amendment/Answer Filed: 7/12/2021

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1500
Days late from receipt of NOD: 244
Total days late from initial due date: 789
Late Fee Order Received: 5/8/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 5/28/2021
Waiver Request Received: 5/13/2021

COMMENTS: Mardy Summerlin is requesting a waiver for the late filing of the 2018 Amendment. Summerlin stated the notice of delinquency signed on 10/31/2020, was not signed for by anyone in their household or even by neighbors, that might have signed their behalf. Summerlin stated their business is a professional haunted attraction and October 31st, is one of their biggest nights and is typically a 12 -14 hour work day. No one would have been home to signed for the letter, the day USPS claims to have delivered it. Their business, Dark Woods Adventure Park, subsists on seasonal tourist traffic. The 2020, COVID-19 shutdown was disastrous as a large portion of their income comes between October 1st and 31st. They were only allowed to operate for 10 nights in 2020 per LA State Fire Marshal and the LA Department of Health restrictions. Their next most profitable time of year is Christmas in the Park, which is a key component of the Holiday Trail of Lights. The attraction was scheduled to open November 20, 2020, in conjunction with Natchitoches' Turn On the Lights event. 2 days before opening, the park experienced a devastating fire, that destroyed the main gate, business offices, ticket office and new gift shop. The loss forced the park to postpone opening for 3 more weeks. Summerlin stated if the notice was signed by the post office mail carrier they overlooked it due to the nature of the financial strain, stress and chaos of their year. Summerlin stated there is a possibility the notice may have been destroyed in the fire, in which they lost years of tax and employee records, memorabilia, certifications, licenses and legal documents. Summerlin is a non-paid, volunteer on the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau and has worked diligently to keep up with financial disclosures and Ethics Training since being appointed. This is Summerlin's first late fee assessment.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No

-NOD for missing signature

May 11, 2021

Louisiana Board of Ethics
PO Box 4368
Baton Rouge, La 70821

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mardy Summerlin and I serve on the Board of Directors for the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Natchitoches Parish. In May 2021, I received a certified letter from the La Board of Ethics concerning my Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for 2018. The notice of delinquency letter was sent certified to 214 Peninsula Drive and signed for on 10/31/2020. While that is my current address, neither myself nor my husband signed for the letter and the signature for the letter is not one that either of us recognizes. We have no other dependents that live at this address, and have also spoken to our neighbors, none of whom signed on our behalf. The signature is completely illegible.

The signing date is October 31st, 2020. One of our business ventures is a professional haunted attraction and October 31 is one of our biggest nights and is typically a 12 -14 work day for us. I can also assure that we would not have been at our house on Halloween day/night to sign for a certified letter due to the labor intensive day we incurred the day the letter was delivered. I did not receive this certified letter. Period.

Our business, Dark Woods Adventure Park, subsists on seasonal tourist traffic. In 2020, the COVID-19 shutdown imposed by Governor Edwards was disastrous as a large portion of our financial income comes between October 1st and 31st. As a seasonal attraction, we were only open 10 nights due to restrictions placed on us last year by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal and the Louisiana Department of Health, at great expense to us personally. The second most profitable seasonal venture at our park is Christmas in the Park, an event that has become a key component of the Holiday Trail of Lights, which was scheduled to open November 20, 2020 in conjunction with Natchitoches' Turn On The Lights event.

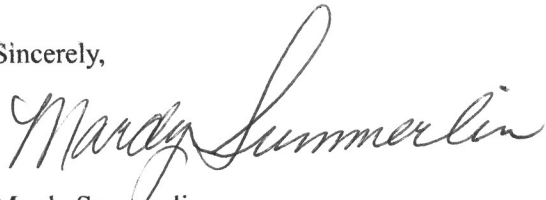
Just two days before opening, we experienced a devastating fire at the park which completely destroyed our main gate, business offices, ticket office and new gift shop. The loss forced us to postpone opening for three more weeks. If this letter was signed by a neighbor or postmaster/mistress at this time, we could have overlooked or not seen it due to the nature of the financial strain and the general stress and chaos of last year. There is a distinct possibility the letter was destroyed in the fire. In this case, it was lost with literally years worth of documents, tax records, planning and employee records, memorabilia, certifications, licenses and legal documents that the office housed. There is no way this single document would have been missed. If this happened, I am deeply sorry.

My appointment on the Board of Directors for the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau is a non-paid, volunteer position that I do take very seriously. I work diligently to keep up with financial disclosures, ethics training, and anything else asked of my appointed volunteer position. I'm asking at this time that you waive my late fees due to not filling our financial disclosure information; information that I do not remember ever receiving. I will gladly fill out forms needed at this time.

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
MAY 17 '21 PM 2:23

Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to hearing from the ethics board concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mardy Summerlin". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

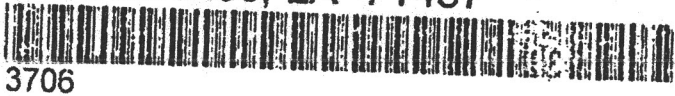
Mardy Summerlin

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Mardy Tyson Summerlin
214 Peninsula Drive
Natchitoches, LA 71457



3706



9590 9402 5367 9189 0222 59

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7020 0640 0001 0736 3706

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

- ☒ Agent
- ☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

10/31/2020

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☒ No

ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE
10/31/2020

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☒ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Mail
- ☐ Mail Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☒ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☐ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

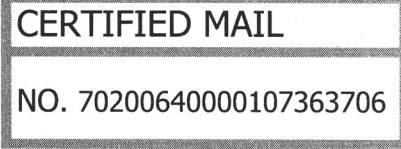
10-29 TF

Domestic Return Receipt

COPY



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 29, 2020

Mardy Tyson Summerlin
214 Peninsula Drive
Natchitoches, LA 71457

**RE: NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY - AMEND
PFD19005920**

Dear Mardy Tyson Summerlin:

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4, if a person fails to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement as required by 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1, or 1124.3; omits information; or files inaccurately, a Notice of Delinquency shall be issued. A review of your Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2018 that was filed with this office on May 15, 2019, indicates the following error(s) or omission(s):

You are required to sign the Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement to certify that the information is true and correct.

You have 7 business days from the date of receipt of this Notice to file an amendment to your Statement, or to submit a written Answer contesting the allegations. **Failure to file** within the 7 days will subject you to an automatic late fee of \$50 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500. Proof of timely filing is determined by the U.S. Postal Service postmark; receipt from the U.S. Postal Service; or receipt from a commercial delivery service.

If you would like to view the report that was initially filed to further explain the omission and/or correction needed, you may visit our website at www.ethics.la.gov. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 225/219-5600 or 800/842-6630.

Sincerely,

Tammy Frazier
Compliance Investigator

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Mardy Tyson Summerlin
214 Peninsula Drive
Natchitoches, LA 71457



3706



9590 9402 5367 9189 0222 59

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7020 0640 0001 0736 3706

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**A. Signature****X****B. Received by (Printed Name)****D. Is delivery address different from item 1?**

If YES, enter delivery address below:

ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE
0000 0000 0000

☒ Agent☐ Addressee**C. Date of Delivery**

10/31/2020

☐ Yes☒ No**3. Service Type**☐ Adult Signature☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery☒ Certified Mail®☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery☐ Collect on Delivery☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

Mail

Mail Restricted Delivery

0)

☐ Priority Mail Express®☐ Registered Mail™☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise☐ Signature Confirmation™☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

10.29 TF

Domestic Return Receipt

We Can Do It!



JASON & MARDY SUMMERLIN
214 PENINSULA DRIVE
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

SHREVEPORT LA 710

13 MAY 2021 PM 1 L

FOREVER/USA

Louisiana Board of Ethics
PO box 4368
Baton Rouge, La 70821

70821-4368

